(e) The steps taken for control of noise pollution include the following:.

- Noise standards have been notified in October 1999.
- Regular compliance monitoring is undertaken by the implementing agencies.
- Ministry of Environment and Forests has advised State Governments and UT Administrations to prepare action plan to control and monitor the noise pollution regularly, particularly during festive seasons including Diwali.

Death of leopards

17. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 100 days from June 1,2007 to September 10,2007,14 leopards died in various parts of the country for various reasons, thereby endangering the species;

(b) if so, the number of leopards presently living in the country (as on 31.10.07) as compared to their number of 8203, according to the census in 2001-02; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to protect the animal from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the information received from the State/UT Governments, there are reports of death of leopards due to various reasons in different parts of the country.

(b) No population estimation of leopards is available after 2001-02 for comparison.

(c) The measures taken by Government of India to ensure protection of leopards, *inter alia,* include the following:

1. Leopard has been included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus according them the highest degree of protection.
2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife including leopards.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set upto control wildlife crimes.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes- *Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger* and *Project Elephant,* to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.
5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wild animals including leopards:

1. Development of wildlife habitat to increase the population of wild animals.
2. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
3. Deployment of Ex-service men for patrolling.

4. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
5. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.
6. Training to frontline staff.
7. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.

Coastal Regulation Zones

18. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend Coastal Regulation Zones in the country and the relevant modification/rules;

(b) whether any representations have been received from the State Government supporting or opposing such moves;

(c) whether any Non-Government agencies from Goa have made any representations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the Contention of these NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government of India had constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan to review the Coastal Regulation Zone notification 1991. The report of the committee has suggested certain modifications in the existing Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 for effective management of the coastal areas. The Government of India has accepted the report.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A representation has been received from The Goa Foundation, Goa expressing their apprehension that Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 may be diluted.

Expansion of security council

19. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the efforts made by him in September 2007, along with Brazil and South Africa, towards calling for "Immediate element-based and result-oriented" inter-Government negotiations for expansion of Security Council, have fructified; and

(b) the steps, diplomatic or otherwise, that are being taken to solicit maximum support for India's getting a seat in the expanded Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Consequent upon the tabling of a procedural resolution by India, Brazil and South Africa along with a number of other developing countries in September 2007, the UN General Assembly unanimosly decided on 17 September, 2007 that the issue of UN Security Council reform should be considered during the 62nd Session of the General Assembly with a view to achieve concrete results, including through inter-governmental negotiations. India is actively following up this issue in consultation with other member states interested in a genuine reform of the Security Council during the current (62nd) UNGA Session.